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# Ryan Kin: How Much Did U.S. Know?

The five children of the late representative Leo Ryan (D-Calif.) have filed a \$3 million lawsuit charging that the State Department withheld information that could have prevented his murder in Jonestown, Guyana, two years ago.

The House Intelligence Committee, meanwhile, has begun an investigation of the same disturbing allegations.

Both the lawsuit and the House investigation are based on persistent rumors about Central Intelligence Agency activities in Guyana and the agency's links to the Rev. Jim Jones, the People's Temple cult leader. According to some reports, a CIA agent may have witnessed Ryan's assassination, as well as the ritual murder-suicides of more than 900 men, women and children at Jonestown a few hours later.

The Ryan children's lawyer, Marvin E. Lewis, said he plans to prove that the State Department and the CIA possessed vital information about the Jonestown situation, and were aware of the extreme danger involved in Ryan's ill-fated fact-finding mission. Yet the agencies did not tell Ryan what they knew, and he was killed by cultists at the airport near Jonestown on Nov. 18, 1978.

The lawsuit also charged that the State Department failed to provide the congressman with adequate security.

As for the House probe, a Capitol Hill source said of the long-circulating rumors about the CIA: "These allegations are coming from some very responsible people, and they cannot be dismissed out of hand." Details of the investigation are still under wraps, but my associate Indy Badhwar has learned that it will focus on the following evidence:

- Joe Holsinger, Ryan's top aide who helped arrange the trip but remained in California, got a phone call from the White House on the day of Ryan's murder. The caller, Les Francis, of the congressional liaison office, reported accurately the number of persons killed, and according to Holsinger said his information was based on "a CIA report from the scene." Francis, now executive director of the Democratic National Committee and a Carter-Mondale campaign official, recalled the conversation, but said, "I think I said 'intelligence report' rather than 'CIA report.'"

- A tape-recording in the FBI's possession covers the last horror-filled minutes of the Jonestown mass murder-suicide ritual. On the tape, Jones can be heard barking the instruction: "Get Dwyer out of here before anything happens to him . . . I'm not talking about you, Darrell, I said Dwyer."

Investigators say the reference was to Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. mission in Guyana, who accompanied the Ryan party to Jonestown. "Who's Who in the CIA," a sometimes reliable East German publication, lists Dwyer as an agent since 1959. Dwyer, who knew Jones, says that he left Jonestown before the massacre, and also says Jones must have been "mistaken" when he referred to him as present. Dwyer had "no comment" when asked if he worked for the CIA.

- Discovery at the Jonestown commune of a huge cache of arms and drugs like Quaaludes, Valium, Demerol and Thorazine. The discovery raises the question of links between Jones and drug traffickers and organized crime, as well as law-enforcement agencies.

- House probers particularly want to

find out if Ryan's requests to the State Department for accurate information on conditions at Jonestown were turned down to protect CIA cover operations in Guyana. When he failed to get answers from the State Department, Ryan flew to Guyana to get his own.